

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
September 4, 2015

We're very thankful ... you can never rely on nature, but luckily Tropical Storm *Erika* was not a problem for our community. Along with our County and State partners, all City Departments worked well together. For us, the experience was definitely a great refresher for storm preparation.

IMPORTANT news from Public Works regarding solid waste collection. Due to the Labor Day holiday, there will be no solid waste collection on Monday, September 7th. Monday's route will take place on Tuesday, September 8th. Thursday will be back to normal service.

Dates to Remember:

September 7, 2015 – Labor Day - City Offices Closed – no residential garbage pickup
September 9, 2015 – Hendry-Clewiston Recreation Board
September 17, 2015 – City Commission Workshop
September 21, 2015 – City Commission Meeting
September 28, 2015 – Final Budget Hearing

Staff Reports

Library Director Barrett reports:

- Remember to visit www.hendrylibraries.org Your library has a lot to offer.

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush Reports:

- Stay up to date with all Clewiston Golf Course news. Visit the City website at www.clewiston-fl.gov, follow the golf link and sign up on Constant Contact. You will automatically be added to the golf course e-mail blast.
- Golf lessons available - contact Robbie Rush at 863-983-1448.
- The greens were sprayed with herbicide, insecticide and fertilized this week.
- Ant bait was put out this week on the fairways.
- Get your grips re-done. Contact golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- The Navy Cadets will have their golf tournament Thursday, September 10th. The golf course will be open for regular play all day. Navy Cadets Tournament starts at 8:30 a.m.
- Masonic Lodge Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, September 12th. You can sign-up in the golf shop or call 863-983-1448. Please check to see if the golf course will be closed for regular play.

- Parent-Child Championship is scheduled for Sunday, September 27th. Sign-up in the golf shop or call 863-983-1448.
- Clewiston Golf Course is now Junior/Kids friendly. We have set up a new short course for the kids. The new tee color is green and measures 1854 yards in distance. Front nine only.
- Jeff Kent – Agronomic Consulting Enterprises LLC, our new Golf Course Maintenance consultant, started September 1st. Jeff hails from *Quail Hollow* in Charlotte, North Carolina where he was the Golf Course Superintendent for 10 years. *Quail Hollow* is where the PGA Tour's *Wells Fargo Championship* is held. Jeff was also at Lagorce C.C. for 8 years. Lagorce C.C. is a high end private facility in Miami Beach whose members have included Alex Rodriguez and the late Joe DiMaggio.
- Clewiston Golf Course will be hosting the District High School Boy's and Girl's Golf Tournament Tuesday, October 13th. Tournament starts at 10 a.m.
- 2015 Men's Club Championship is Saturday and Sunday October 17th and 18th. Sign-up in the golf shop or call 863-983-1448. There is a low net division and low gross division. The golf course will be open for regular play both days.
- **Putts Fore Pets Golf Tournament is scheduled for October 31, 2015. Sign-up is in the golf shop. Call 863-983-1448. Proceeds to benefit Clewiston Animal Shelter.**

Recreation Director Lance Ramer Reports:

- SOCCER, SOCCER, SOCCER...! By all indications this will be the biggest Soccer Season in several years. AYSO registrations are up and CHS programs are expecting BIG things from their teams this year! Ballfield staff is continuing the preparations at Sugarland Sports Complex for these upcoming seasons beginning with AYSO seasoning starting on Sept. 28th. More information to follow.
- #89 rock has been delivered to Sugarland Sports Complex to be put around the fencing on the small and big quads. Staff is busy prepping these areas with edging, scuff hoeing and plastic barrier placement. Fields #1 & #8 have begun...
- We are anxious to begin the new turf treatment program at Sugarland Sports Complex to remove evasive weeds from our game turf surfaces. Jeff Kent - Agronomic Consulting Enterprises LLC came out on Tuesday to inventory equipment and chemicals in storage to begin design of a turf management program for us!
- Clewiston Recreation Adult Men's Softball fall season will begin Tuesday Sept. 8th at Sugarland Sports Complex on field #9 at 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30pm. We will play Tuesday and Thursday nights at the same time. Check www.clewistonrecreation.com for game recaps and more information.
- Registrations were taken this week for Sugar Dolls and D.I.M.E classes at the Youth Center. All group activities will begin next week. Contact the Youth Center at (863) 983-1492 for additional information.
- Weekly highlights for Clewiston Recreation
 - Sat. Sept. 5th – Sweet 15 at the John Boy Auditorium 6pm-Midnight
 - Sat. Sept. 5th – Aqua Zumba at C.S. Mott Pool at 9am
 - Sat. Sept. 5th – Pool Party at C.S. Mott Pool 10am-Noon

- Sat. Sept. 5th – Baby Shower at the Youth Center 1-4pm
- Sat. Sept. 5th – Birthday Party at Sugarland Pavilion Park 2-6pm
- Sat. Sept. 5th – Baby Shower at Trinidad Park 4-8pm
- Sat. Sept. 5th – Birthday Party at STP Pavilion #2 2-8pm
- Sun. Sept. 6th – Birthday Party at Sugarland Pavilion Park 2-6pm
- Sun. Sept. 6th – Baby Shower at Trinidad Park Noon-4pm
- If you are interested in participating in AAU Track and Field during the late summer, please contact Andre at 983-1492.
- Please visit www.clewistonrecreation.com to check us out and get information regarding all your recreational needs.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- The remodeling work our employees volunteered to do in the back office area looks great. Hope you can stop by and have a look sometime. Please acknowledge Mike Rowan, Curtis Clay, Steven Chamberlain, Harry Spears, Nick Williams and Darrin McNeil for their efforts when you see them.
- Saturday night officers responding to a report of Domestic Violence encountered the suspect fleeing the scene in a vehicle. As they turned around and tried to stop him, the suspect lost control of the vehicle and drove it into the canal at Magnolia and Circle. A backpack was recovered at the scene containing illegal narcotics and a handgun. The driver was able to escape the scene, but he has been identified and a warrant has been issued for his arrest.
- Patrol responded to a report of fraud at a local bank Tuesday. Following a fairly complicated investigation, Officer Buffy McLeod arrested Sim Collins for the theft of approximately \$2,000. A vehicle tied to the crime was also seized.
- You are all aware that Chad Pelham is leaving us this week. Mrs. Debbie McNeal has been promoted to that position and she will supervise the civilian side of our Department. Congratulations to Debbie and many thanks to Chad for his years of dedicated service. In an unrelated move, Officer Steven Chamberlain has been transferred to CID to apply his talents as a Detective.
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:
 - 1060** Commercial / Residential Security Checks
 - 644** Complaints Investigated
 - 97** Traffic Citations Issued
 - 30** Arrests Made
 - 72** Merchant Escorts Provided
 - 18** City Ordinance / Code Violations
 - 9** Rental Inspections
 - 27** Alarms Responded To
 - 4** Traffic Accidents Investigated

Utilities Director Williams reports:

PLEASE BE AWARE OF UTILITY PAYMENT SCAMS: Scam artists are calling Utility customers, posing as employees of Clewiston Utilities and threatening disconnection of services if payment is not made immediately. Please be aware:

- 1) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER request you to purchase money cards or gift cards to pay your account over the phone.**
- 2) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER contact our customers on the weekend and threaten disconnection of services.**
- 3) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER speak to our customers in a threatening tone.**

If you feel you have been a victim of this scam, please contact Clewiston Utilities to verify the call or the Clewiston Police Department and file a report.

- The Water/Sewer crew made repairs to lift stations at Pinewood and Corbin's and repaired water breaks at Basilan Crescent and Florida Avenue.
- The Electric crew changed the service at Berner Oil from overhead to underground and repaired two underground services (Pinewood lift station and Fairgrounds Trailer Park). They changed out a pole on West Aztec and installed a pole on Feeder 1 (South Francisco Street). Street light repairs were made on US Highway 27.
- Effective October 1, 2015 Clewiston Utilities will no longer mail the yellow reminder/late notice.
- Please remember to register with CodeRed (Reverse 911). This system allows us to contact you in case of an emergency or with other informational announcements. You may register by clicking on the CodeRed link at the bottom or the City's website page www.clewiston-fl.gov. You may update your information at any time through the same link.
- If you are considering replacing your air conditioner or insulation, remember the City offers a rebate program for those items. Most local contractors participate in the program and can give you information. You can also visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov or call our office.
- **DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR YOUR METER BASED SURGE PROTECTION!** Visit our office today.
- **ONLINE BILL PAY IS AVAILABLE** on our web site at www.clewiston-fl.gov or www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl.

Public Works Director Scheffler reports:

- **Mosquito Control:** With mosquito populations so high, the contractor has been in motion. Ground trucks are spraying on Tuesday and Friday nights. The plane is scheduled to fly on September 6th.
- **Street Maintenance:**
 - Driveway repair on East Sagamore; this included culvert installation.
 - Twenty-two (22) Crotons were planted at the City Hall this week.
 - The "pot hole" patrol was out again this week.
- **Building Maintenance:** A roofing contractor has been called in to look at a bad leak along the north wall of the Library.

- US27 Rebuild: **Started on June 15, 2015** - Day 73 of 150 into the project... Progress seems to be slow, but be assured the contractor is working. Please watch closely for people working in the street after dark.
- West Pasadena Project: Bids will be opened on September 17, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in City Hall.
- Boat Basin project: New bid opening for additional work at the boat basin will be on September 17, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in City Hall. This work will be for drainage infrastructure. The seal and striping will be finished this week.
- Civic Park Rebuild: Conditions improved in the park and staff was able to go in and make some irrigation repairs caused by equipment during the last concrete pour. The column forms have been built and staff is working on the monument bench form now.
- **Veterans Memorial Fund raiser: You can still get some of the Elks Club “Famous Ribs”. All proceeds will go toward the park rebuild. Stop by the Club House on North Francisco on Friday, between noon and 5:00 p.m. There are still many exciting projects planned and a place for you to be a part of making our “gem” shine. Please get involved call 983-1471 and ask for Sean.**